

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 9, 2006

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION/APPROVAL TO ISSUE ONE (1) NORTHWESTERN
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (NWHI) RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EDUCATION PERMIT
TO DR. HANS VAN TILBURG OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP)
FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS AROUND HISTORIC WRECK SITES IN THE
WATERS SURROUNDING KURE ATOLL AND PEARL AND HERMES ATOLL,
VALID FROM JUNE 29, 2006 TO JULY 14, 2006

Submitted herewith for your authorization and approval is a request for issuance of a NWHI Access Permit to Dr. Hans Van Tilburg of NOAA, NMSP, Marine Heritage Program. The Research, Monitoring and Education Permit, described below, will allow activity to occur in the NWHI State marine Refuge (0-3 miles) waters surrounding Pearl and Hermes Atoll and Kure Atoll. The activities covered under this permit will occur from June 29, 2006 to July 14, 2006, from the support vessel Hi'ialakai.

Without an understanding of the resource base, without an accurate inventory of significant cultural material, maritime heritage resource management is impossible. Historic shipwrecks are subject to natural deterioration as well as intentional or inadvertent damage (dredging, looting, re-use). Inventory and assessment are heritage preservation actions common to a number of federal and state programs. The 2006 research supports cultural and historical management efforts on behalf of different agencies, including the State of Hawaii DLNR (Historic Preservation Division). This 2006 maritime heritage survey specifically addresses mandates for cultural resource inventory within the Abandoned Shipwreck Act (ASA 1987), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA 1966), and the Preserve America Executive Order 2005, all of which call for the inventory, assessment, and management of maritime cultural resources within managed areas. This includes waters under the management of the State of Hawaii and the US FWS.

The proposed activities (below) are consistent with and support the purposes of the Refuge, primarily to better understand and manage the resources within the marine refuge.

The applicant proposes to gather data to confirm identity of located but unconfirmed wreck sites. Data includes precise measurements, sketches, and digital images of major features and diagnostic artifacts in situ. The applicant will conduct standard maritime archaeology documentation of located sites: documentation results include plan view site maps of all

associated features and artifacts in situ, GIS format. The applicant will continue to assess site environmental interactions, including movement of artifacts, movement of sand, water quality parameters (temperature, salinity, pH, oxygen content), and characterization of the wreck site's corrosion environment. The applicant will survey areas in the vicinity for undiscovered features; data to be collected includes digital images and GPS coordinates. Work is referenced to fixed stainless steel datums that were installed previously; if any of these are missing, they will be replaced.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The permit was received by the Division of Aquatic Resources on April 19, 2006. It was sent out for review and comment to the following scientific entities: Division of Aquatic Resources staff (5), Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Native Hawaiians from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission were also consulted.

As of May 30, 2006, the Division of Aquatic Resources has received comments from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in support of this application and the issuance of permit. The Reserve also recommends that applicants should be provided with a briefing on the Native Hawaiian cultural significance of the area, and that discharge must be regulated in accordance with Reserve prohibitions when transiting Reserve waters. See Attachment 1 for detail of the Reserve's comments.

No other comments received from the Scientific Community or from Native Hawaiians.

RESPONSE:

No response required.

FINAL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Approve the request for access to State waters in order to document, measure, and photograph historic wreck sites, as outlined in the permit application.
- 2) Allow the replacement of any missing stainless steel datums.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize and approve, with stated conditions, a Research, Monitoring and Education Permit to Dr. Hans Van Tilburg of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for activities and access within the State waters of the NWHI."

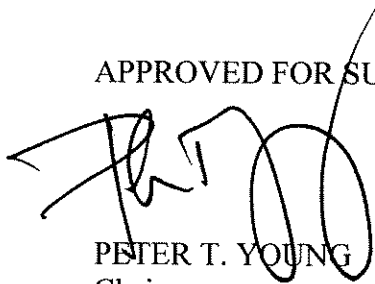
June 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Polhemus".

DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter T. Young".
PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson

**Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
NOAA/NOS/NMSP
Comments on State of Hawaii NWHI Marine Refuge Permits**

PERMIT SUMMARY

Title: Maritime Heritage Resources Survey NWHI 2006

Project Leader: Hans Van Tilburg

Location: Kure Atoll and Pearl and Hermes Atoll

Description: Non-excavation survey of selected maritime heritage resource sites in the NWHI.

BACKGROUND

NOAA's Marine Sanctuary Program initiated its Maritime Heritage Program in 2002 and is currently the only agency active in the field of maritime heritage in Hawaii. The proposed activities include baseline surveys and assessments of the environmental interactions of the wrecks with the surrounding natural environment.

MANAGEMENT RELEVANCE TO THE RESERVE

The Reserve supports the non-extractive activities proposed for conducting the surveys in particular, the environmental interaction assessment which will characterize the wreck site's corrosion environment. This information is critical for management agencies to understand the corrosion/deterioration of the wrecks and their impacts on the immediate environment.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The activities proposed under this permit application are non-extractive and thus pose minimal impact on natural resources.

RESERVE RECOMMENDATION

The Reserve supports this research project and recommends issuing the permit as requested.

Specific Recommendations:

- Applicants should be provided with a briefing on the Native Hawaiian cultural significance of the area.
- Discharge must be regulated in accordance with Reserve prohibitions when transiting Reserve waters.

☒ Approve

☐ Approve with conditions

☐ Disapprove

Reserve staff Reviewers:

☒ Malia Chow, Ph.D.

☒ Randy Kosaki, Ph.D.

☒ Moani Pai

☒ Kekuewa Kikilo

☒ Hoku Johnson

Manager's concurrence with staff recommendation



Aulani Wilhelm, Acting Reserve Manager